

Message Text

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10

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 OIC-02 FEA-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/107 W

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R 121326Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3996

INFO AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMCONSUL CALI

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2659

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LOPEZ STRESSES TRADE THEME AT SUGAR
CONFERENCE

REF: BOGOTA 2127, STATE 054203 (NOTAL)

1. IN SPEECH OPENING FOURTH MEETING OF THE GROUP
OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EXPORTING
COUNTRIES (GEPLACEA), PRESIDENT LOPEZ ADDRESSED THE
THEME OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN SUGAR PRODUCTION.
LOPEZ NOTED THAT WHILE THE CONCEPT OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
IS FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, IN REALITY
THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ARE MORE INTERESTED IN HAVING
IT APPLIED TO THEIR EXPORT TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
RATHER THAN VICE VERSA. AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, HE CITED
THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMON MARKET
IN SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF BEET SUGAR WHEN MANY
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LOCATED IN TROPICAL
ZONES AND WITH ABUNDANT MANPOWER, CAN PRODUCE CANE SUGAR
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AT ONE-HALF THE COST.

2. LOPEZ SUGGESTED THAT NOW WAS AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS TO SEEK AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATED ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND NOT OF PATERNALISM. HE PROPOSED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT INCLUDE THE RECIPROCAL CONDITION THAT A COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY SUGAR ON A REGULAR BASIS BE COMPLEMENTED BY AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO GUARANTEE MINIMUM PRICES FOR THE PRODUCT.

3. COMMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS REGARDING COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE PROPOSAL BUT FORWARD BY FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT VISIT TO COLOMBIA. WE CAN EXPECT THE GOC TO CONTINUE TO STRESS THIS CONCEPT, BOTH BILATERALLY AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, MEETINGS, SPEECHES, EXPORTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BOGOTA02659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0968
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760368/aaaachyc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BOGOTA 2127, 76 STATE 54203
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT LOPEZ STRESSES TRADE THEME AT SUGAR CONFERENCE
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CO, US, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006